and order for 25 machines was placed in July 1989, out of which 5 machines have already been supplied in some post offices in Delhi.

(c) A prototype of digital weighing scale for postal tariff was developed and an order for 50 machines has been placed. Eleven such machines have already been supplied in different offices in Delhi.

(d) Imported High Speed Franking machines have been installed in 60 post offices in the country during the 7th Plan. Attempts are now being made for import of more such machines and also for indigenous development and production of High Speed Franking machines in the country.

(e) Bag de-dusting machines have been introduced through import of three machines from France. Efforts for indigenisation of the machine for wider use are yet to bear fruit.

(f) (i) The first computer in the Department was introduced for Postal Life Insurance work in Bangalore in 1986. At present soft-ware based on recent systems for PLI work is under development by the National Informatics Centre, New Delhi to be used as prototype for application in all Circles.

(ii) One mini computer was installed in 1986 in the office of the Director Postal Accounts in Madras for Money Order pairing work. Installation of more computers for this application will depend upon the evaluation of the results of this pilot project.

(iii) One mini computer system for Savings Bank Accounting was installed in Parliament Street Head Post Office. Installation of more computers for Savings Bank Accounting work will depend on the result of this pilot project.

4. Apart from the above schemes, the Expert Committee on Postal Excellence made recommendations for three new areas of technology application in its report :—

(a) Use of personal computer based machines at the counters.

(b) Stepping into satellite mail—introduction of mail and electronic fund transfer.

(c) Use of computers in Head Post Offices for Accounting work.

For these, the Department is trying to develop necessary hardware and software for introduction of these new machines. Actual implementation will depend upon the results of the efforts and availability of resources in the coming years.

Pricing of newsprint

*58. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of Government in regard to pricing of newsprint; and

(b) what steps are likely to be taken by Government to bring down the prices of newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA) : (a) and (b) The Government does not exercise any statutory control on the price of indigenous newsprint. The price of imported newsprint is

dependent on international market trends and other factors.

Electronic/automatic exchanges in Kerala

*59. SHRI M.A. BABY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of exchanges in Kerala proposed to be converted into electronic/automatic exchanges during the next year; and

(b) what new steps are contemplated by Government to expand the communication net work in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) About 80 nos. of Exchanges are planned to be replaced by electronic exchanges during 1990-91, subject to availability of equipment.

Major exchanges proposed for such conversion/new addition are:—

—10,000 lines at Trivandrum Medical College ;

—7,000 lines at Ernakulam ;

—5000 lines at Kottayam;

—3,000 lines at Tiruvala;

—1,500 lines at Alleppey ;

—3,000 lines at Tripunithura ;

—plus 3,000 lines at Calicut.

(b) The 8th Five Year Plan proposals aim at provision of telephone connections on demand by 1-4-95 in all exchanges below 5000 lines and for large exchanges meet the demand upto 31-3-94 by 1-4-95. The plan envisages provision of reliable medium to all exchanges of 500 lines and more by—

—optical fibre cable system ;

—coaxial cable ;

—cable carrier system ;

—microwave system ;

—UHF system ;

—Junction cable and PCM systems.

The implementation of plan is subject to adequate allocation of financial and material resources in time.

दूरदर्शन और आकाशवाणी को हुई हानि

*60. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :

क्या **सूचना और प्रसारण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार को दूरदर्शन और आकाशवाणी के संचालन में प्रति वर्ष आर्थिक हानि उठानी पड़ती है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान उठायी गई वित्तीय हानि का वर्षवार ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) क्या सरकार भविष्य में इस प्रकार की हानि को समाप्त करने के लिये क्या विशिष्ट उपाय करने का विचार रखती है ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्री (श्री पी० उपेन्द्र) : (क) से (ग) आकाशवाणी तथा दूरदर्शन का उद्देश्य लोगों को सूचना, शिक्षा तथा मनोरंजन प्रदान करना है। राष्ट्रीय एकता को बढ़ावा देने, अपनी सांस्कृतिक विरासत को ठीक तरह से समझने के लिये प्रोत्साहित करने तथा विकास प्रक्रिया के बारे में जनता में चेतना जागृत करने के लिये समाज में बदलाव लाने के वास्ते इलैक्ट्रानिक माध्यमों की उत्प्रेरक के रूप में परिकल्पना की गई है। इस उद्देश्य को प्राप्त करने के लिये माध्यमों द्वारा वित्तीय पहलुओं पर ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता। तथापि सरकार इन माध्यमों को जो बजट समर्थन प्रदान करती है उसे इनकी कार्यचालन हानि नहीं माना जा सकता क्योंकि ये सरकार के संबद्ध कार्यालय हैं।